

# Democratic National Platform

The following is the text of the platform adopted by the Democratic national convention at San Francisco, July 2:

"The Democratic party, in its national convention now assembled, sends greetings to the president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, and hails with patriotic pride the great achievements for country and the world, wrought by a Democratic administration under his leadership.

"It salutes the mighty people of this great republic, emerging with imperishable honor, from the severe tests and grievous strains of the most tragic war in history, having earned the plaudits and the gratitude of all free nations.

"It declares its adherence to the fundamental progressive principles of social, economic and industrial justice and advance, and purposes to resume the great work of translating these principles into effective laws, begun and carried far by the Democratic administration and interrupted only when the war claimed all the national energies for the single task of victory.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The Democratic party favors the league of nations as the surest, if not the only, practicable means of maintaining the permanent peace of the world and terminating the insufferable burden of great military and naval establishments. It was for this that America broke away from traditional isolation and spent her blood and treasure to crush a colossal scheme of conquest. It was upon this basis that the president of the United States in pre-arrangement with our allies, consented to a suspension of hostilities against the imperial German Government; the armistice was granted and a treaty of peace negotiated upon the definite assurance to Germany, as well as to the powers pitted against Germany, that 'a general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.' Hence, we not only congratulate the president on the vision manifested and the vigor exhibited in the prosecution of the war; but we felicitate him and his associates on the exceptional achievements at Paris involved in the adoption of a league and treaty so near akin to previously expressed American ideals and so intimately related to the aspirations of civilized people everywhere.

"We commend the president for his courage and his high conception of good faith in steadfastly standing for the covenant agreed to by all the associated and allied nations at war with Germany, and we condemn the Republican senate for its refusal to ratify the treaty merely because it was the product of Democratic statesmanship, thus interposing partisan envy and personal hatred in the way of the peace and renewed prosperity of the world.

"By every accepted standard of international morality the president is justified in asserting that the honor of the country is involved in this business; and we point to the accusing fact that, before it was determined to initiate political antagonism to the treaty, the now Republican chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, himself publicly proclaimed that 'any proposition for a separate peace with Germany, such as he and his party associates thereafter reported to the senate, would make us 'guilty of the blackest crime.'

"On May 15, last, the Knox substitute for the Versailles treaty was passed by the Republican senate; and this convention can contrive no more fitting characterization of its obloquy than that made in the Forum Magazine of December, 1918, by Henry Cabot Lodge, when he said:

"If we send our armies and young men abroad to be killed and wounded in northern France and Flanders, with no result but this, our entrance into war with such an intention was a crime which nothing can justify. The intent of congress and the intent of the president was that there could be no peace until we could create a situation where no such war as this could recur. We cannot make peace except in company with our allies. It would brand us with everlasting dishonor and bring ruin to us also if we undertook to make a separate peace."

"Thus to that which Mr. Lodge, in saner moments, considered 'the blackest crime,' he and his party associates sought to give the sanctity

of law; that which eighteen months ago was of 'everlasting dishonor,' the Republican party and candidates today accept as the essence of faith.

"We favor the president's view of our international obligations and his firm stand against reservations designed to cut to pieces the vital provisions of the Versailles treaty and we commend the Democrats in congress for voting against resolutions for separate peace which would disgrace the nation. We advocate the immediate ratification of the treaty without reservations which would impair its essential integrity; but do not oppose the acceptance of any reservations making clearer or more specific the obligations of the United States to the league associates. Only by doing this may we retrieve the reputation of this nation among the powers of the earth and recover the moral leadership which President Wilson won and which Republican politicians at Washington sacrificed. Only by doing this may we hope to aid effectively in the restoration of order throughout the world and to take the place which we should assume in the front rank of spiritual, commercial and industrial advancement.

"We reject as utterly vain, if not vicious, the Republican assumption that ratification of the treaty and membership in the league of nations would in anywise impair the integrity and independence of our country. The fact that the covenant has been entered into by twenty-nine nations all as jealous of their independence as we are of ours, is a sufficient refutation of such charge. The president repeatedly has declared and this convention reaffirms, that all our duties and obligations as a member of the league, must be fulfilled in strict conformity with the constitution of the United States embodied in which is the fundamental requirement of declaratory action by the congress before this nation may become a participant in any war.

## CONDUCT OF THE WAR

"During the war, President Wilson exhibited the very broadest conception of liberal Americanism. In his conduct of the war, as in the general administration of his high office there was no semblance of partisan bias. He invited to Washington as his counselors and coadjutors, hundreds of the most prominent and pronounced Republicans in the country. To these he committed responsibilities of the gravest import and most confidential nature. Many of them had charge of vital activities of the government. And, yet, with the war successfully prosecuted and gloriously ended, the Republican party in congress, far from applauding the masterly leadership of the president and felicitating the country on the amazing accomplishments of the American government, has meanly requited the considerate course of the chief magistrate by savagely denouncing the commander in chief of the army and navy and by assailing nearly every public officer of every branch of the service intimately concerned in winning the war abroad and preserving the security of the government at home.

"We express to the soldiers and sailors and marines of America the admiration of their fellow countrymen. Guided by the genius of such commanders as General John J. Pershing, the armed forces of America constituted a decisive factor in the victory and brought new luster to the flag.

"We commend the patriotic men and women who sustained the efforts of their government in the crucial hours of the war, and contributed to the brilliant administrative success, achieved under the broad visioned leadership of the president.

## FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

"A review of the record of the Democratic party during the administration of Woodrow Wilson presents a chapter of substantial achievements unsurpassed in the history of the republic. For fifty years before the advent of this administration periodical convulsions had impeded the industrial progress of the American people and caused inestimable loss and distress. By the enactment of the federal reserve act the old system, which bred panics, was replaced by a new system, which insured confidence. It was an indispensable factor in winning the war and today it is the hope and inspiration of business. Indeed, one vital danger against which the Amer-

ican people should keep constantly on guard is the commitment of this system to partisan enemies who struggled against its adoption and vainly attempted to retain in the hands of speculative bankers a monopoly of the currency and credits of the nation. Already there are well defined indications of an assault upon the vital principles of the system in the event of Republican success in the elections in November.

"Under Democratic leadership the American people successfully financed their stupendous part in the greatest war of all time. The treasury wisely insisted during the war upon meeting an adequate portion of the war expenditure from current taxes and the bulk of the balance from popular loans, and, during the first full fiscal year after fighting stopped, upon meeting current expenditures from current receipts notwithstanding the new and unnecessary burdens thrown upon the treasury by the delay, obstruction and extravagance of a Republican congress.

"The nonpartisan federal reserve authorities have been wholly free of political interference or motive; and, in their own time and their own way, have used courageously, though cautiously, the instruments at their disposal to prevent undue expansion of credit in the country. As a result of these sound treasury and federal reserve policies, the inevitable war inflation has been held down to a minimum, and the cost of living has been prevented from increasing here in proportion to the increase in other belligerent countries and in neutral countries which are in close contact with the world's commerce and exchanges.

"After a year and a half of fighting in Europe and despite another year and a half of Republican obstruction at home, the credit of the government of the United States stands unimpaired, the federal reserve note is the unit of value throughout all the world and the United States is the one great country in the world which maintains a free gold market.

"We condemn the attempt of the Republican party to deprive the American people of their legitimate pride in the financing of the war—an achievement without parallel in the financial history of this or any other country, in this or any other war. And in particular we condemn the pernicious attempt of the Republican party to create discontent among the holders of the bonds of the government of the United States and to drag our public finance and our banking and currency system back into the arena of party politics.

## TAX REVISIONS

"We condemn the failure of the present congress to respond to the oft-repeated demand of the president and the secretaries of the treasury to revise the existing tax laws. The continuance in force in peace times of taxes devised upon pressure of imperative necessity to produce a revenue for war purposes is indefensible and can only result in lasting injury to the people. The Republican congress persistently failed, through sheer political cowardice, to make a single move toward a readjustment of tax laws which it denounced before the last election and was afraid to revise before the next election.

"We advocate tax reform and a searching revision of the war revenue acts to fit peace conditions so that the wealth of the nation may not be withdrawn from productive enterprise and diverted to wasteful or non-productive expenditure.

"We demand prompt action by the next congress for complete survey of existing taxes and their modification and simplification with a view to secure greater equity and justice in tax burden and improvement in administration.

## PUBLIC ECONOMY

"Claiming to have effected great economies in government expenditures, the Republican party cannot show the reduction of one dollar in taxation as a corollary of this false pretense. In contrast, the last Democratic congress enacted legislation reducing taxes from eight billions, designed to be raised, to six billions for the first year after the armistice, and to four billions thereafter; and there the total is left undiminished by our political adversaries. Two years after armistice day a Republican congress provides for expending the stupendous sum of \$5,403,390,327.30.

"Affecting great paper economies by reducing departmental estimates of sums which would not have been spent in any event, and by reducing formal appropriations the Republican state-